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PRESS RELEASE

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Border Patrol Agents Bring Christmas to Abused Children Relying on Their Own Donations, a Tradition Continues

San Diego, California - Abused, neglected, and abandoned children receive help from a private San Diego shelter. And when Christmas nears, that shelter receives help from several Border Patrol agents.

Funds needed to hand out more than 260 gifts to over 160 children cared for by New Alternatives, a non-profit, private agency that serves the San Diego area, traditionally came from a Border Patrol softball tournaments organized by a handful of dedicated agents. This year, the tournament was cancelled because of the September 11th terrorist attacks. Agents who had assisted in bringing Christmas to the children in the past scrambled to provide alternative funding. Personal donations and many off-duty hours were spent soliciting donations, shopping for gifts, and organizing the event. Overcoming extraordinary challenges, the agents ensured that this Christmas will be a special one for children who need it most.

Arriving in a Border Patrol "HumVee," Santa and his friends distributed the gifts at 12 different New Alternatives locations. More than 160 very appreciative children visited with Santa and enjoyed their new gifts.

The Border Patrol supported "New Alternatives Christmas visit" is likely to remain a San Diego tradition for years to come.

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